

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system for automatically collecting charges in accordance with individual consumptions of a source from one or more users, said system comprising:

one or more user's mediums, provided one for each of the users, for storing electronic money, which is defined as an electronic alternative to a currency;

a source consumption monitor for monitoring the source consumptions for the individual users; and

a charge collector for collecting the charges in accordance with the individual source consumptions, which are monitored by said source consumption monitor, from the respective user's mediums as corresponding equivalent amounts of electronic money,

wherein the one or more user's mediums contains a user's payment history record that includes a charge for consumption and an issued user's payment certificate.

Claim 2 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 1, wherein said charge collector collects the charges in accordance with the individual source consumptions, which are monitored by said source consumption monitor, from the respective user's

mediums at any time as required.

Claim 3 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 1, wherein, if the charge in accordance with the source consumption is not collected from any one of said user's mediums, said charge collector stops providing the source for the user of said one medium.

Claim 4 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 2, wherein, if the charge in accordance with the source consumption is not collected from any one of said user's mediums, said charge collector stops providing the source for the user of said one medium.

Claim 5 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 1, wherein

said source consumption monitor monitors amounts of source consumed by the individual users; and

said charge collector calculates the charges based on the amounts of the consumed source and previously set unit price for the source, and collects the calculated charges from said respective user's mediums.

Claim 6 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 2,
wherein
said source consumption monitor monitors amounts of source consumed by the individual
users; and
said charge collector calculates the charges based on the amounts of the consumed source
and previously set unit price for the source, and collects the calculated charges from said respective
user's mediums.

Claim 7 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 3,
wherein
said source consumption monitor monitors amounts of source consumed by the individual
users; and
said charge collector calculates the charges based on the amounts of the consumed source
and previously set unit price for the source, and collects the calculated charges from respective user's
mediums.

Claim 8 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 4,
wherein
said source consumption monitor monitors amounts of source consumed by the individual
users; and

said charge collector calculates the charges based on the amounts of the consumed source and previously set unit price for the source, and collects the calculated charges from respective user's mediums.

Claim 9 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 5, wherein said charge collector includes a unit price setting area in which the unit price is set from an external device of said charge collector.

Claim 10 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 6, wherein said charge collector includes a unit price setting area in which the unit price is set from an external device of said charge collector.

Claim 11 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 7, wherein said charge collector includes a unit price setting area in which the unit price is set from an external device of said charge collector.

Claim 12 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 8, wherein said charge collector includes a unit price setting area in which the unit price is set from an external device of said charge collector.

Claim 13 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 9, wherein the unit price in said unit price setting area is set and updated by a provider of the source via a communication line.

Claim 14 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 10, wherein the unit price in said unit price setting area is set and updated by a provider of the source via a communication line.

Claim 15 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 11, wherein the unit price in said unit price setting area is set and updated by a provider of the source via a communication line.

Claim 16 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 12, wherein the unit price in said unit price setting area is set and updated by a provider of the source via a communication line.

Claim 17 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 1, further comprising one or more user's monitors, one provided for each user, for displaying at least one of the source consumption for the individual user, the charge in accordance with the source

consumption, and the balance of electronic money stored in said user's medium for each said user, for monitoration by each said user.

Claim 18 (original):. A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 1, further comprising a charge collector's monitor for displaying at least one of the source consumptions for the individual users, the charges in accordance with the individual source consumptions, and the balances of electronic money stored in said respective user's mediums, for monitoration by said charge collector.

Claim 19 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 1, further comprising a payment medium for storing the electronic money which has been collected from said user's mediums by said charge collector.

Claim 20 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 19, further comprising a collector's payment unit for receiving the electronic money, which has been stored in said payment medium.

Claim 21 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 20, wherein said collector's payment unit sends the electronic money, which has been received from said payment medium, to a provider of the source via a communication line.

Claim 22 (original): A system for automatically collecting charges according to claim 20, further comprising a mobile terminal which includes a memory for receiving and storing the electronic money collected by said payment unit.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A terminal for automatically collecting charges in accordance with consumptions of a source from one or more users, wherein

said terminal is communicably connected with one or more user's mediums, provided one for each of the users, for storing electronic money, which is defined as an electronic alternative to a currency, and

said terminal is equipped with a charge collector for collecting the charges in accordance with the individual source consumptions from the respective user's mediums as corresponding equivalent amounts of electronic money,

wherein the one or more user's mediums contains a user's payment history record that includes a charge for consumption and an issued user's payment certificate.

Claim 24 (original): A terminal for automatically collecting charges according to claim 23, further comprising a monitor for displaying at least one of the source consumptions for the individual users, the charges in accordance with the individual source consumptions, and the balances of electronic money stored in said respective user's mediums.